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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
HA-05 OMB-01 ACDA-12 /122 W
----------052199 080332Z /65
O 080250Z APR 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0554
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01314

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

LONDON PLEASE PASS AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
SUBJECT: CONTACT GROUP DISCUSSION OF SECURITY COUNCIL
STRATEGY ON NAMIBIA

REF: A. STATE 088908; B. USUN 1261

1. DURING CONTACT GROUP MEETING APRIL 7, GROUP DISCUSSED
STRATEGY FOR UPCOMING SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF
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NAMIBIA. WE EXPRESSED DEPARTMENT'S DESIRE (REF A) FOR
MORE COMPRESSED SCHEDULE FOR SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION, BUT
OTHERS CONTINUED TO INSIST ON PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED
SCHEDULE (REF B). WE SUBSEQUENTLY ADVISED THAT DEPART-
MENT COULD RELUCTANTLY AGREE TO LATTER SCHEDULE.

2. GROUP THEN PROCEEDED TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE OUTCOMES OF

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SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION AND THEIR PREFERABILITY. GROUP WAS OPERATING UNDER ASSUMPTION THAT NO REACTIONS WOULD BE RECEIVED FROM SAG OR SWAPO BEFORE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETINGS BEGIN. GROUP WAS UNANIMOUS IN BELIEVING THAT RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A SIMPLE OUTRIGHT ENDORSEMENT OF THE PROPOSAL WOULD BE UNOBTAINABLE. INSTEAD GROUP AGREED TO RECOMMEND THAT FIVE SET SIGHTS ON ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD CALL ON THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO APPOINT A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND TO REPORT TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RELATED RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ELECTORAL PROCESS. SUCH A RESOLUTION WOULD GAIN US INDIRECT ENDORSEMENT OF OUR PLAN BY AGREEMENT TO INITIATE IT, WITHOUT A REQUIREMENT FOR EXPLICIT PUBLIC ENDORSEMENT OF THE PLAN'S DETAILS WHICH WOULD BE REPUGNANT TO SOME, ESPECIALLY IN ADVANCE OF FULL AGREEMENT OF THE PARTIES. GROUP AGREED THAT, IF THIS TYPE OF RESOLUTION PROVED UNOBTAINABLE TWO FALL-BACKS COULD BE (IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE):

- (A) A RESOLUTION DIFFERING FROM THE ABOVE ONLY IN THAT IT WOULD CALL ON THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO REPORT WITHIN ONE WEEK ON THE POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT OF A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE;

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- (B) A RESOLUTION SIMPLY TAKING NOTE OF OUR PROPOSAL AND URGING ALL CONCERNED TO EXERT THEIR BEST EFFORTS TOWARD THE ACHIEVEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE BY NAMIBIA AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE.

GROUP DID NOT DISCUSS FURTHER THE NOTION OF A RESOLUTION CONTAINING A TIME LIMIT, OF PERHAPS TWO MONTHS, ON CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS, BUT CLEARLY SUCH A LIMIT COULD BE INCORPORATED IN RESOLUTION B ABOVE, IF IT WERE DEEMED DESIRABLE.

3. GROUP THEN AGREED TO RECOMMEND TO CAPITALS THAT LOBBYING EFFORT BE ORCHESTRATED EARLY NEXT WEEK TO SOUND OUT FRONTLINE CAPITALS ON THEIR SUPPORT FOR WHATEVER TYPE OF RESOLUTION FIVE AGREE TO AIM FOR. BRITISH AND CANADIANS FURTHER SUGGESTED THAT, IF FIVE AGREE TO SEEK RESOLUTION CALLING FOR APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, FIVE SHOULD THEN SOUND OUT SOUTH AFRICANS ON WHETHER THEY WOULD OBJECT TO SUCH AN APPOINTMENT AT THIS TIME (IN ADVANCE OF COMPLETE AGREE-MENT OF THE PARTIES ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE PLAN). UK AND CANADIAN ARGUMENT IS (1) THAT APPOINTMENT WILL DO NO

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GOOD IF SOUTH AFRICANS OBJECT; AND (2) THAT IF SOUTH AFRICANS (I.E., FOURIE) SUGGEST THAT SUCH A RESOLUTION COMING AT THIS TIME WOULD CAUSE A CATASTROPHIC REACTION WITHIN THE CABINET JUST AS CABINET IS CONSIDERING SAG REACTION TO THE PROPOSALS, WE MIGHT WISH TO TAKE NOTE. FRENCH AND FRG PASSIBELY SUPPORTED THIS POSITION. WE RESPONDED THAT INFORMAL APPROACH TO SOUTH AFRICANS MIGHT HAVE SOME MERIT, BUT THAT WE HOPED GROUP WAS NOT THINKING THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN ATTITUDE WOULD DETERMINE WESTERN FIVE APPROACH IN SECURITY COUNCIL. UK (MURRAY) RESPONDED BY ARGUING THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA OPEN. COMMENT. INFORMAL SOUNDING OF SOUTH AFRICAN REACTIONS MAY BE DESIRED BY OTHER FOUR BUT IT RUNS THE SERIOUS CONFIDENTIAL

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RISK THAT IF SOUTH AFRICA RESPONDS NEGATIVELY, THE OTHER FOUR WILL BACK OFF. END COMMENT. LEONARD

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